

AF FORM 112-PAR

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

Pages

COUNTRY GERMANY		REPORT NO. 51A-10638	(LEAVE BLANK) EP 145342
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT INTERVIEWER: RUEB, Wilhelm (FN) Socio Political Information on Soviet Political Prisoners' Camps in Area of TAYSHET		EDITOR: WEISSENBOERN	
AREA REPORTED ON TAYSHET - USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050 AISW (USAFE)	
DATE OF REPORT 13-14 Jul 1954	DATE OF INFORMATION From Oct 50 to Dec 53	EVALUATION F-6	
PREPARED BY (Officer) J. L. PESER, Major, USAF		SOURCE 220302	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) HICOG			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)			
A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: 1. PERSONAL DATA: Date of birth 5 Jul 1891. Place of birth BEIRUT (3353N-3530E), Syria. Education four years secondary school, four years faculty of law. Civilian profession attorney at law. Knowledge of Russian fluent verbally and in writing. 2. HISTORY OF CONFINEMENT: From Sep to Oct 50, while en route to Siberia, interned in following Soviet transit tprisons: Russians names Unknown: BREST-LITOVSK (5207N-2342E), ORSHA (5430N-3027E), MOSKVA (5545N-3735E), CHELYABINSK (5510N-6124E), NOVOSIBIRSK (5502N-8253E), TOMSK (5630N-8458E), TAYSHET (5557N-9802E). From Oct 50 to Oct 52, interned in "OZR-LAG" - (abbreviation of "OTDELNIY, ZAKRYTIY RESHIMNIY LAGER" - Special Closed Regime Camp), number 020, location 70 km east of TAYSHET, type forced labor camp for political prisoners under special administration of "OTDEL GOSSUDARSTVENNOY BEZOPASSNOSTI" (State Security Division) of the "MINISTERSTVO VNUTRENNICH DEL" - (Ministry of the Interior), type of work transportation of tree stumps as fuel for camp, chores in camp kitchen, contact with Soviet and foreign political prisoners and MVD employees. From Nov 52 to May 53, interned in "OZR LAG" # 04, location 80 km east of TAYSHET near SRR between TAYSHET and BRACKOE (5605N-10140E), all other info same as under camp # 020. From May to Dec 53, interned in "OZR-LAG" # 028, location near RR station CHUNA (coord unknown) on SRR TAYSHET - BRACKOE. All other info same as under camp # 020. a. SOURCE was sentenced by telegraphic order from MOSKVA to 15 years hard labor for having been chief of a war interpreters' school of the German High Command. The wording of the sentence was "for having trained fascist interpreters". He was simply informed of the sentence while being detained in the "MVD" prison BERLIN-LICHTENBERG (5213N-1324E) in Dec 49. No trial had been conducted. Arrested in DRESDEN (5103N-1345E) in May 46, told by the "MVD" trial judge that "he must know best himself" why he was arrested, interned in BAUTZEN (5111N-1426E) from Jun 46 to Dec 49. He was never notified of charges. Sentence apparently based on personal data, told by SOURCE to interrogating "MVD" trial judge. 3. Evaluation of Source: Thorough knowledge of Russian mentality and conditions due to service in Tsarist Army, residence in Estonia and constant contact with Russians between WW I and WW II, service on eastern front with German Army during WW II. Intelligence far above average, deeply interested in politics, good memory of details, statements comprehensive, objective, influenced by concern about future political development. Cooperation perfect. B. SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD GENERAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS: 4. Particularly opposed to the Soviet regime, among forced laborers in the			
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Camps # 020, 04, and 028, were kolkhoz farmers. Reasons were extremely low prices for agricultural products, high delivery quotas which usually forced farmers to buy foods themselves, excessive prices for foods and consumer goods, inadequate housing conditions and privileges of kolhoz bosses. 60% of the camp population were farmers of all ethnic groups. Regardless of areas whence they came, they had similar complaints. Proof of their poor living conditions was contents of packages, close relatives of prisoners were permitted to send. Whereas packages from relatives who made a living in industry or in government service contained sausages, canned meat and vegetables, even chocolate, candies, underwear and clothing, these from kolkhoz farmers contained flour, hard baked cakes of rye or corn, very often only hard dried black bread. Fats or meat were hardly seen. Another important reason was the high death rate among farmers' children. Imprisoned farmers complained that public hygiene and medical service in kolkhozes were extremely poor, almost non-existent. Medicines were almost completely absorbed by the great industrial combines. Next to kolkhoz farmers ranked the clergy and lay priests of all creeds in opposition to the Soviet regime. In camp # 020, interned for conspiracy against the government, were the Orthodox bishop of NOVGOROD (5833N-3116E), eight Orthodox priests from the Ukraine, two rabbis and about 40 lay priests and preachers of the Baptist and Mennonite sects. Although the Soviet government claimed not to interfere with religious activities, priests and church members were kept under close surveillance. Any derogatory remark about the government and its policy, even such remarks which faintly implied disagreement with Soviet policy and the Marxist doctrine, were used as pretexts for arrest and deportation. Above priests and church members steadfastly adhered to their religious duties, interrupted their work to meet in prayer, went through all the ceremonies, prescribed by their particular creed. They did not disguise their dislike of "MVD" guards and employees, and were very outspoken in their criticism of the Soviet government. SOURCE was under the impression that they were firmly and irrevocably resolved to suffer, even to die for their religion. When the group of one Orthodox bishop and eight priests was ordered by the MVD supervisors to cut their long beards, they vehemently refused, and even engaged in a hand-to-hand fight with the guards. The guards, obviously impressed by the determination of the priests, let them go. A lay preacher of the Mennonite sect, when jeeringly asked by a MVD inspection what his opinion of the Soviet government was, shouted at him: "Try to figure it out yourself because I want with all my heart to put them into a bag and drown them!"

Administrations and MVD guards in the camps # 020, 04, and 028, obviously following special instructions, behaved surprisingly correct towards these priests. They were always employed with work inside camps lest they be observed by the civilian population.

Total of Orthodox priests, sectarians, rabbis and Mahometan priests in the camps #04 and 028 amounted to 60.

The third group of opponents to the Soviet regime were unskilled industrial workers of middle or old age. Reason for their opposition were excessive work rates, low wages, inadequate housing and arbitrary transfers from work places. 30% of the population in the three above camps were industrial workers of the above type.

The fourth group was represented by the criminal prisoners, the so-called "BLATNOY" - (Russian synonym for gangster). SOURCE came into touch with these people because many of them were transferred from their special camps, called "ISPRABITEL'NIE TRUDOVYE LAGERI" - (Corrective Labor Camps). Because, according to the Soviet criminal code, economic, petty official and military crimes were treated as common crimes many workers, farmers and soldiers were sentenced to long forced labor terms. Although originally indifferent or even in favor of the Soviet government, they be-

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came vehement opponents by the treatment in corrective labor camps and also by the influence of hardened criminals. They were also very outspoken in their hatred against the government. According to the amnesty of 27 Mar 1953, quite a number of them had been released from their camps in the area of TAYSHET and BRACKOE. By Nov and Dec 53, 30 of them returned to camp # 028 after they had been sentenced anew. They frankly admitted that they were better off as prisoners than as free Soviet citizens. Their behavior was marked by complete indifference towards personal suffering, and they often got into brawls with MVD guards. Among themselves, they kept hard discipline and comradeship. While being interned in camp # 028, SOURCE was told by a group of these people that they were the only survivors from a barracks in an unidentified corrective labor camp. Together with comrades, they had procured themselves long knives with which they had terrorized non-complying fellow prisoners and MVD guards. When they were ordered by armed MVD guards to surrender their knives, they refused, barricaded themselves and jeered at guards: "Come and get them!" The guards were said to have opened fire, killing most of the occupants of their barracks. SOURCE emphasized, however, that the latter group opposed the Soviet government less for political reasons. They were desperadoes, rating the hardships of normal Soviet life.

The fifth potential source of opposition was composed of members of small ethnic groups who had been arbitrarily arrested, sentenced for fabricated crimes the confession of which had been tortured out of them during the trial. These were Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians, representing 5 to 10% of the camp population, with the Estonians as the largest group. Most of them had been interned since 1945 and 1946. In the meantime, their relatives had also been resettled in Siberia. In SOURCE's opinion, they were politically very active, read all available newspapers, and had not ceased to hope for the collapse of the Soviet regime. Their confidence of the United States as the future liberator of their countries had remained unshaken.

The last group, in which opposition to the Soviet regime could possibly develop were members of the Soviet Armed Forces, representing 10-15% of the camp population. Most of them had been sentenced for breaches of discipline while serving with the occupation armies, or for thefts of state property. They bore a natural grudge against their superiors, who had exposed them to punishment, and against the MVD guards who bullied them.

While being interned in camp # 028, about 50 Soviet marines arrived, an unidentified number of others was distributed in other forced labor camps. SOURCE heard from them that they had belonged to the crew of an unidentified Soviet battleship in the naval base VLADIVOSTOK (4308N-13154E). The officer corps of this battleship had conspired to desert with their ship and turn it over to the Americans. The scheme had been betrayed, the entire crew sentenced to 25 years hard labor in Siberia.

5. Particularly strong supporters of the Soviet regime, even among the political prisoners and under the harsh conditions of camp life, were such members of the intelligentsia who had been brought up in the educational system of the regime. Their group was comparatively small. They were mostly victims of informers and agents provocateurs, or victims of their own sluggishness and incompetence which had resulted in sabotage charges. They were all considered potential informers by their fellow prisoners despite or because of their brazen criticism of the Soviet government.

In general, SOURCE emphasized, all those who supported the Soviet regime, had had a comfortable life and high positions prior to their arrest. The large gap between the way of life of the ruling and underprivileged classes in the USSR corrupted any opposition with those who enjoyed a comfortable life. The constant threat of

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being reduced to the low standard of living of the masses, forced the intelligentsia to follow the Party line. Furthermore, they knew that they were badly needed by the government, and they hoped to win release by a servile attitude. 6. SOURCE learned from discussions with Ukrainian, White-Russian and Russian farmer fellow prisoners that, compared with Soviet social groups, collective farmers had the lowest standard of living. Discontent among this section of the population was caused by low prices for agricultural products, excessive delivery quotas, high prices for food and consumer goods, restrictions on employment mobility (collective farmers were not permitted to take jobs in industry), privileges of kollektors' houses and red tape in kollektors' administrations. Discontent prevailed also among unskilled industrial workers of the older age groups. Reasons already described under para 4. 7. SOURCE came in touch with political prisoners belonging to the Russian, Ukrainian and Estonian intelligentsia, as well as to the Russian and Ukrainian farm-er population. The intelligentsia regarded STALIN as the soul of the then Soviet government. They were convinced that, however, brutal and revolting his methods were, only a man of his type could really rule such bandits representing the Soviet government. They were unanimous in their conviction that he knowingly betrayed socialist principles which LENIN would have tried hard to put into effect. Never-theless, they admitted that STALIN was endowed with fierce energy, shrewdness and a highly developed ability to play one against the other. Opinions about STALIN among farmer fellow prisoners was divided between deep-rooted hatred and indifference. Hatred was shown mostly by those with a religious background who regarded him as the representative of Hell, the initiator of all the evil they had to suffer. The other and larger group felt that whoever was head of the government, their fate would not change anyway. They were resigned to the fact that the crowd of functionaries would always do what they liked. Typical for both groups was, SOURCE emphasized, the caution with which they spoke about STALIN. None of them had seen STALIN personally. They knew of him only from public meetings and from newspapers. The exaggerated cult which was performed with his name had turned STALIN into a phantom without any direct bearing on their immediate situation. 8. Ukrainian, Russian and Estonian members of the intelligentsia, Russian and Ukrainian farmers, interned in the forced labor camp # 04, received the news of STALIN's death with indifference as far as he personally was concerned. SOURCE understood from various remarks that they had hoped too long for his death to be much elated now. However, all fellow prisoners, regardless of social group, nationality and re- ligious, felt that important things were going to happen. Particularly the collect- ive farmers who, to a certain degree, had identified STALIN with collectivization, seemed to wake up. Whereas political discussions among SOURCE's fellow prisoners had been a rarity, they became frequent and animated now. The farmers' way of reasoning was that the conditions in agriculture had been bad to such an extent that a further deterioration was impossible. Because after STALIN's death something had to happen, it could only be for the better. Also the intelligentsia, although much more restrained, began to wait for changes to take place. The only ones who did not seem contented by the general expectation, were the Orthodox priests and priests of other creeds. They deliberately shunned political discussions as if the event had no bearing on them. SOURCE was convinced that this reaction was typical for the same groups of the Soviet population outside the camp. 9. The amnesty of 27 Mar 1953 did not affect political prisoners of camp # 04 where SOURCE was interned at that time. He also heard from political prisoners of camp # 020 and 028, who had been transferred to his camp, that none was released there according to above amnesty. With rare exceptions only, political prisoners of these camps had been sentenced to 25 years hard labor for counter-revolutionary crimes, conspiracy, sabotage and espionage were specially excluded from the amnesty. Reaction to the amnesty among political prisoners, mentioned above, was a feel- ing of disappointment. They all had heard or read in the newspapers that an amnesty was in the making. Despite their justified pessimism, they had more or less hoped				

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for certain ameliorations in their situation.

Release took place only in an unidentified number of so-called "IT" camps in the surrounding area, according to rumors. Number of released prisoners unknown. SOURCE's fellow prisoners were unanimous that terms of amnesty were explicitly intended to curry favor with the criminals.

10. In camp # 020, SOURCE made the acquaintance of two Jewish lawyers, who, about three years ago, had personally participated in the preparation of the new criminal code. He heard from them that as maximum penalty eight years penitentiary or hard labor was envisaged. The two lawyers did not know why the new criminal code had not yet been put into effect.

11. Food prices were actually reduced by 5-10% as of 1 Apr 1953. Administration of camp # 04 installed small food shop for two days every second week in which prisoners were permitted to buy. Reaction among camp population was positive, further price cuts were expected for 1953. Many prisoners began to look forward to more and better food parcels from their relatives.

12. The announcement on 13 Jan 1953 of the arrest of the KREMLIN doctors was read by members of the Russian, Ukrainian and Estonian intelligentsia. They were unanimous in believing that the doctors had been framed or slandered by unidentified members of the Soviet government in order to incite a wave of anti-semitism. This assumption was corroborated by articles in the "IRKUTSKAYA PRAVDA" - (The IRKUTSK Truth), the "PRAVDA" and "IZVESTIYA" in which the term "Jew" was used the first time. In previous articles and announcements about conspiracies, the culprits had always been called "criminals", "bandits", "vermin" etc without disclosing their religion or ethnic origin. Russian, Ukrainians and White Russian farmers and workers, as far as they had heard the news, showed no particular interest. Fears about an imminent general purge were not voiced.

The announcement on 4 Apr 53 about repudiation of charges against the KREMLIN doctors led members of the Russian, Ukrainian and Estonian intelligentsia in camp # 04 to believe that a struggle for power was going on. Some interpreted the announcement as an affront to BERIA who was considered responsible for their arrest. Discussions among above types of political prisoners centered around the members of the Central Executive Committee of the Supreme Soviet who were generally regarded as the men who wielded power over USSR. Many fellow prisoners of above type read newspapers very carefully with particular interest in these men. They suspected that a re-shuffling of positions was in the making, and that top leaders were fighting about who was to get what. However, all fellow prisoners regardless whether intelligentsia, farmer or worker were extremely doubtful as to the correctness of news. Especially an article in the "IRKUTSKAYA PRAVDA", expressing satisfaction about the fact that the plaintiffs have now become defendants because they had extorted confessions by unlawful means, was received with angry and gleeful comments by SOURCE's fellow prisoners. They remembered that they all had been forced to sign confessions under duress. The above article was considered best proof that all official announcements were only made to cover up the struggle for power.

13. Fellow prisoners in camp # 028, members of the old Russian, Ukrainian and Estonian intelligentsia as well as farmers and workers, generally believed version of events in East BERLIN (5231N-1324E) and East Germany, as published by the official Soviet press. The news did not contain a word about workers' demonstrations, high work rates etc. All was explained as a provocation of the western powers in order to find an excuse to war on the USSR.

SOURCE heard rumors that about 50 BERLIN rioters had arrived and were dis-

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tributed among camps # 020, 04 and 028 in Aug 53. He personally had no chance to see any of them.

14. BERIA'S downfall was widely discussed among members of the Russian, Ukrainian, Estonian and Latvian intelligentsia with whom SOURCE was interned in camp # 028, because camps were under administration of his division. Opinions were voiced that BERIA had disturbed the precarious equilibrium of power between MVD, Party and Armed Forces as established by STALIN. He was said to have become too strong and dangerous for the other members of the Central Executive Committee of the Supreme Soviet. There were also rumors that BERIA had surrounded himself with a body guard which offered resistance at his arrest. Shootings were said to have occurred and the body guard had to be overpowered by Army officers. SOURCE's fellow prisoners were convinced that together with BERIA, all his close collaborators were also arrested and possibly liquidated without trial.

In Jul 53, following the announcement of BERIA's downfall, MVD guards and MVD employees took a more lenient attitude towards prisoners. In many instances, they even entered in friendly discussions, and were not much concerned about filling of work rates. This attitude, however, was discontinued in Aug 53 after an inspection had arrived from MOSKVA.

16. Announcement on 8 Aug 53 by MALENKOV and on 3 Sep 53 by KRUSHCHEV, about measures, intended to improve the lot of farmers, were positively received by those concerned. Although farmer prisoners in camp # 028 did not expect any personal profit, they believed that their close relatives could improve their situation. Especially the announcement, that taxes on homestead plots will be reduced, and number of live stock for private use by farmers increased, was considered a positive step towards improvement. In letters, written by relatives of political prisoners, the same positive opinion was expressed. By Oct and Nov 53, SOURCE gathered from letters, received by his farmer fellow prisoners, that increase in number of live stock had in fact been carried out but on individual collective farms only. Farmer fellow prisoners were of the opinion that the full implementation of latter measure on all collective farms will take about one year because number of live stock as kolkhoz property must not be reduced.

Members of the old Russian, Ukrainian and Estonian intelligentsia also believed that announced measures will have to be carried out because too much propaganda had already been made. The government, in its present position, would not dare to cheat the farmers because the overwhelming majority of soldiers and recruits in the Armed Forces were sons of farmers. SOURCE had no evidence that measures had already borne tangible fruits for consumers by Dec 53. Food packages, both from industrial areas as well as from collective farms, remained the same in size and in contents. Also household plots on kolkhozes had been increased in individual instances only, as expressed in letters. In the opinion of farmer fellow prisoners, above measure came too late in the year to have any positive immediate effect on the general food situation. Results were expected not earlier than 1954.

17. The real power in the Soviet government, in the opinion of Russian, Ukrainian, Estonian and Latvian members of the intelligentsia as well as former collective farmers and soldiers, interned in the camps # 020, 04 and 028, was wielded by the Central Executive Committee of the Supreme Soviet. The notion of this executive body as a unit was firmly established in the minds of above fellow prisoners. As far as the intelligentsia were concerned, they did not believe that a prolonged struggle for domination, controversies and tensions of long duration were possible within this executive body. Although such things occurred, they

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had to be liquidated and ironed out under any circumstances and very fast for reasons of self-preservation.

Foremost in the minds of former soldiers and collective farmers was ZHUKOV who was most discussed among above type of fellow prisoners. ZHUKOV was said to be a great friend of the farmers who, during WW II, had used all his influence with STALIN to improve the lot of farmers. He was said to have even pressed STALIN in an ultimative manner to increase household plots for collective farmers. STALIN was said to have ordered ZHUKOV be transferred for disciplinary reasons on two occasions, once during and once after WW II.

MALENKOV was unanimously considered the spiritual heir and follower, though more flexible, of the old STALIN policy. Farmer fellow prisoners gave ZHUKOV and BULGANIN credit for ameliorative measures concerning collective agriculture. Members of the intelligentsia were of divided opinion about the possible initiator of above measures but believed that the Soviet government as a whole had been forced to do something about agriculture. They had not been able to do it earlier due to STALIN's obsession with industrialization and armament.

18. Attitude of fellow prisoners towards the post-STALIN government was much more positive with former farmers and soldiers than with the intelligentsia. SOURCE was under the impression that latter type of prisoners, despite the absence of factual evidence, regarded present government as at least able to use more liberal methods. They seemed to regard STALIN as having been the greatest obstacle to any reforms. Members of the intelligentsia, however, believed that after a flurry of small-scale reforms, necessitated by the precarious international situation, the old ways would assert themselves. Especially the drive for increased food production was, in the opinion of the intelligentsia, intended to strengthen the popularity of the Soviet government with a view to a possible international conflagration.

Any hopes for an improvement of the lot of political prisoners were soon disappointed since Aug 53. Inspections from MOSKVA were mostly concerned with security measures. They ordered constr of additional watchtowers and barbed wire fences in camp # 028. They also severely reprimanded MVD guards for failing to take watch dogs along while escorting and guarding prisoners. SOURCE personally observed construction of a new forced labor camp not far from camp # 028. In Oct 53, rumors intensified that four to six new forced labor camps were under constr in area between TAYSHET and BRACKOE. Another rumor, corroborated by many transfers of prisoners from all camps, said that a huge forced labor camp for 15,000 prisoners had been constructed near TOMSK. Prisoners will be employed on exploitation of newly discovered oilfields and constr of oil refineries.

D. PURGES, RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND MASS ARRESTS.

19. Inmates of camps # 020, 04 and 028 had all been arrested for conspiracy, sabotage and espionage against the Soviet Government. About 80% of them had been arrested either during WW II and between 1945 and 1946. Arrests were made as reprisal against that section of the population who had lived under German occupation, had worked in Germany or otherwise collaborated with the Germans. SOURCE was unable to ascertain to which extent actual conspiracy against the Soviet government was involved. The incomplete biographical information, obtained in chance discussions, led him to believe that almost all of them had been arrested on the basis of informers' reports, calumnies, or were involved with agents provocateurs. Their stories were surprisingly alike as far as circumstances of arrest and imprisonment, trial methods and sentences were concerned.

About 20% of the camp population consisted of prisoners who had been arrest-

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ed and sentenced since 1947 or later. Among the latter group the percentage of intellectuals, nationals of former Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, priests of all creeds and members of the Armed Forces was particularly high. SOURCE remembered having seen in all three camps one bishop, eight Orthodox priests, two rabbis, about 40 lay priests and preachers of the Baptist and Mennonite sects, about 20 Mahometan priests, two Jewish lawyers, 12 former MVD trial judges, one Jewish colonel, one Japanese lieutenant colonel, about 50 higher officers of the Red Army and an unidentified number of functionaries. Among population of camp # 028 there were also two actors from a MOSKVA theater, the first violinist of the MOSKVA Grand Opera and about 30 Chinese and Koreans. All these people had arrived during the time of SOURCE's interment. Also in their cases, as far as SOURCE could ascertain in chance discussions or hear from rumors, arrests had been made on the basis of informers' reports and schemes of agents provocateurs. In rare cases, incompetence, offenses and crimes in office or insubordination were involved. Although political charges were the majority also in the latter group, SOURCE could not ascertain the extent of actual and deliberate opposition or conspiracy against the Soviet government.

Members of ethnic groups and as Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians had been deported, in the unanimous opinion of these people, because the Soviet government tried to break up the national unity in these countries. Numerous letters from relatives of above prisoners, still residing in these countries, contained information that enterprises, farms and fodies of deportees had been taken over by Russians or Ukrainians. In these cases, sentences for conspiracy had only been fabricated in order to cover up russianization policy. Other letters from relatives of latter ethnic groups confirmed that, in the meantime, they had been transferred to a new residence in Siberia.

20. Political prisoners from Estonia and Latvia, arrived between 1950 and 1951, were positive that an underground movement existed in these two countries, the members of which called themselves "forest brethren". They were said to commit sabotage on railway lines and destroy installations of the MVD and Soviet Army.

21. Ukrainian farmers from the Western Ukraine, arrived in camp # 020 Jun and Jul 52, said that partisans were active there who, when threatened by MVD forces, withdrew to eastern Polish territory.

When SOURCE had been released and his train stood on a RR siding in the RR station CHELYABINSK (5510N-6124E) a recruit transport train halted alongside. As soon as the recruits found out that political prisoners were in the other train, they began throwing cigarettes, bread, tinned meat and other articles through latticed box car windows as presents. Interfering MVD guards were showered with invectives and vehement protests. SOURCE heard personally passionate threats by recruits as follows: "Wait until war brekas out, you cowardly sons of then we'll teach you a lesson! Now you have only courage against our helpless parents and girls!" Some recruits even threw stones at the MVD guards. The recruit transport train was then moved to another RR siding to avoid further trouble.

22. SOURCE heard from his Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian fellow inmates that already about 40% of the population of these countries had been deported to Siberia by 1952.

E. FORCED LABOR CAMPS.

23. "OZR-LAG No. 020", interned from Oct 50 to Oct 52, location 70 km east of TAYSHET. Number of inmates 800 in Oct 50, 2,000 in Oct 52, 1,500 in Dec 53. Type of all political criminals. Nationalities: 50% Russians and White Russians.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 7050 AISW (USAF)		REPORT NO. 51A-10638		PAGE 9 OF 9 PAGES	
PLACE		WAC NO.	FM	EVAL	IN CODE NO.
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25 % Ukrainians, 15% Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians, 10% Germans, Poles, Chinese, Koreans, Kalmyks, Caucasians, Japanese and various unidentified Asiatic tribes. Type of work: Lumbering and work in saw mill, cutting beams and boards for house constr. Camp was dissolved in Dec 53, population mostly transferred to newly constructed forced labor camp near TOMSK for exploitation of oil fields and and constr of oil refineries. Camp re-occupied by female criminal prisoners.

"OZR LAG No. 04", interned from Nov 52 to May 53, location 80 km east of TAYSHET near SRR between TAYSHET and BRACKOE. Number of inmates 1,200 in Nov 52, 1,500 in May 53. Type all political criminals. Nationalities 60% Russians and White Russians, 30% Ukrainians, 5% Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians, 5% various nationalities, but mostly Chinese and Koreans. Type of work: Lumbering and work in furniture fcty. Camp still in operation by Dec 53. Latest population figure 900.

"OZR-LAG No. 028", interned from May to Dec 53, location near RR station CHUNA on SRR TAYSHET - BRACKOE. Number of inmates: 400 in May 53, 600 in Dec 53. Type political criminals. Nationalities: 40% Russians and White Russians, 30% Ukrainians, 10% Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians, 20% Germans, Poles, Czechs, but mostly Chinese, Koreans. Type of work: Lumbering and transportation of lumber to saw mill which was operated by criminal prisoners. Camp in operation by Dec 53. Population cut down to 300 by transfers.

24. While interned in camps # 04 and 028 SOURCE heard rumors that also two American citizens had arrived in camp # 04. He had no chance to see them personally but heard that the name of one of them was "LAWRENCE" or "LAURENS". The two Americans were said to be in good health by Nov 53 due to regular food parcels they received directly from USA.

25. On 20 Nov 1953, while being interned in camp # 028, all foreign nationals (40 Germans, three Poles, two Czechs, and about 70 Chinese, Koreans and Japanese) were notified by the camp administration that they were permitted to send letters to their home countries via postal box (number forgotten because changed several times) MOSKVA. Prisoners were informed that they must not further identify their status (PW, war criminal, political criminal etc) in their letters which will be censored.

Since 1951, a special type of MVD guards was introduced who, as SOURCE heard from some of them, were employees of the MVD on a contract basis. They were employed inside camps only. Only the higher ranks of these employees wore MVD uniforms. The lower ranks were a mixture of civilian clothes and pieces of MVD uniforms. Generally, they displayed a more lenient attitude towards prisoners than the regular MVD guards.

Constr of new forced labor camp for 15,000 prisoners near TOMSK in order to exploit newly discovered oilfield and construct oil refineries learned through rumors in Oct and Nov 53.

APPROVED:
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